

Abstract

A modular conveyor belt formed of rows of belt modules pivotally interlinked by transverse pivot rods and specially adapted for following a curved conveyor path. The modules include a top, product conveying surface and a bottom, sprocket-driven surface. The belt modules have a plurality of first link ends disposed in the direction of travel of the conveyor belt and a plurality of second link ends disposed in the opposite direction. Transverse holes in the link ends are aligned to accommodate a pivot rod. When the link ends of the consecutive rows of side by side modules are intercalated, the pivot rod serves as a hinge pin in a hinged joint between consecutive interlinked rows. To permit the belt to flex sideways, the openings in the first link ends are slotted longitudinally in the direction of belt travel. In order to prevent fingers from penetrating the grid, the belt modules have a cross-rib with an extended portion in the longitudinal direction designed so as to allow the link ends to undercut the cross-rib when collapsing and to reduce the gap between adjacent modules.

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